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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: CITY OF LYNCHBURG JOINS GOVERNOR IN
HONORING VIRGINIA BUSINESSES - BUSINESS APPRECIATION WEEK TO BE
CELEBRATED MAY 16TH - 22ND, 2004**

Lynchburg - The City of Lynchburg will be joining Governor Mark R. Warner in celebrating Business Appreciation Week - designated to acknowledge the fortitude consistently demonstrated by businesses throughout the Commonwealth. Coordinated by the Virginia Department of Business Assistance, Business Appreciation Week is scheduled for May 16th - 22nd, 2004.

"Each year we officially recognize the contributions our businesses make to our local economy," Mayor Carl Hutcherson said. "This week provides an opportunity for us to collectively show our appreciation."

Lynchburg's City Council and Industrial Development Authority will honor and celebrate Lynchburg businesses during a luncheon held on Wednesday, May 19, 12:00 p.m., at Jonathon's Restaurant on the 8th floor of the downtown Bank of the James building (former Wachovia Building). The Department of Communications and Marketing, in conjunction with the Office of Economic Development, are also honoring the importance of local businesses with a display in City Hall, 900 Church Street. The display features several different local companies and the products they produce.

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Additionally, Governor Warner will attend several statewide events including a kick-off breakfast on the morning of May 17th. Local chambers of commerce and other



organizations throughout the state are also celebrating with local events.

The City's Office of Economic Development and Industrial Development Authority are charged with assisting existing businesses in their expansion efforts as well as facilitating the location of new businesses to the area. The Virginia Department of Business Assistance promotes economic growth by helping Virginia businesses prosper. DBA is committed to maintaining a leadership position by nurturing both new and existing businesses throughout the Commonwealth. For more information on Business Appreciation Week, visit DBA's website at www.dba.state.va.us/events/baw.asp.

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